



Comhairle Contae Lú  
Louth County Council

**Cruinniú de Cheanta Bardasach Bhaile Átha Fhirdia / Municipal District of Ardee  
March 2023**

Minutes of the Municipal District of Ardee meeting hosted in the Market House, Main Street, Dunleer, Co Louth on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2023 at 4.30 p.m.

**In attendance:**

**Cathaoirleach:** Councillor Paula Butterly

**Members:** Councillors: Bernie Conlon, Pearse McGeough, John Sheridan, Jim Tenanty

**Apologies:** Councillor(s): Dolores Minogue

**Officials:** Joe McGuinness Director of Services  
Gráinne Tuomey, Meetings Administrator  
John Lawrence, Senior Executive Officer  
Darius Messayeh, Executive Engineer  
John O'Hagan, Senior Engineer

**Minute No. 19/23**

**General Agreement appointing a Member to Chair the Meeting in accordance with Standing Order no. 10**

In accordance with Standing Order 10, in order to ensure the chair was taken within the required fifteen minute time frame from scheduled meeting commencement, and as the Cathaoirleach had notified that she was delayed, and the Leas-Cathaoirleach was absent, it was proposed by Cllr John Sheridan, seconded by Cllr Jim Tenanty and agreed by Cllr Pearse McGeough that Cllr Bernie Conlon chair the meeting until such time as the Cathaoirleach or Leas-Chathaoirleach arrive.

**Minute No. 20/23**

**Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2023**

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2022 were confirmed on the

**Proposal of** Cllr Jim Tenanty

**Seconded by** Cllr Pearse McGeough

And approved.

## **Minute No. 21/23**

### **Matters Arising**

Members requested updates on various items including:

- Lighting at Mullins Cross – time frame for installation of new road markings and motorway studs
- Footpath at Dromin School not included in current scheme but may be considered for future Active Travel initiatives
- Newly purchased variable message signs on N2 had solar battery issue, are being repaired and will be in situ soon
- Pedestrian crossing flashing beacons being considered at Castlebellingham Kilsaran crossing
- Pole is still in middle of footpath between Aldi and St. Brigids forcing pedestrians onto N52

## **Minute No. 22/23**

### **Housing Progress Report**

Members noted the report as circulated at the meeting. John Lawrence, Senior Executive Officer addressed all matters raised by the Members.

The following items were highlighted:

- A discussion took place around the method of seeking of expressions of interest in Affordable Housing and the response received. Members were advised that the expressions of interest form set realistic expectations for those who were interested in the Scheme as out of 70 expressions only 5 met the very strict criteria. It was considered that engagement with developers to commence a scheme would increase expressions of interest in any further call, as people tend to react to what they can see. Any of those who submitted expressions and qualified in the first round will not be required to submit again.
- A scheduled audit on Vacant Premises and Croí Conaithe uptake was suggested to monitor any improvements to dereliction in towns.
- Stoney Lane unit allocations included the 'Safe Home Initiative' which brings Irish people in need of housing in other countries home.

## **Minute No. 23/23**

### **Roads and Local Services Report**

Members discussed the report as circulated at the meeting. Darius Messayeh, Executive Engineer addressed matters raised.

Along with items raised under Matters Arising the following items were highlighted:

- Clarification on legal standing of lighting Pedestrian Crossings was requested. Members were advised that recent pedestrian crossing installations were checked and tested and are in line with requirements and safe if travelling at 50kmph. Members suggested that not all persons travel at 50kmph and requested a review of location of installation at Castlebellingham
- Repairs to footpath due to Tree roots lifting it from Lennons Pub were previously advised as scheduled but no works have been carried out

## **Minute No. 24/23**

### **Change of Meeting Chair in accordance with Standing Order no. 10**

As the Cathaoirleach Cllr Paula Butterly arrived to the meeting, the chair was vacated by Cllr Bernie Conlon to make way for the Cathaoirleach who took over in accordance with Standing Order 10.

## **Minute No. 25/23**

### **Road Works Programme – Noted**

Darius Messayeh Executive Engineer invited questions from Members on the report as presented to them on the 2023 Roadworks Programme, which set out all planned works to roads for the county. Members were advised the programme was for noting.

Members welcomed the report and funding distribution as issued but expressed concern on the following items:

- Works at Darver and Louth Village were no longer on the programme
- A reduction in funding of 20% for Community Involvement Scheme roads
- No Road Safety Works scheduled at Mullary despite recent fatality
- Less funding for Mid-Louth than other two districts particularly Drogheda

Darius Messayeh advised of priority given to high accident incident areas and Drogheda had the highest level of accidents

## **Minute No. 26/23**

### **Physical Development Report**

Members discussed the report as set before them and John O'Hagan Senior Engineer responded to questions raised.

The following items were highlighted:

- Monaghan County Council were unable to secure all the funding sought for their side of the Ardee to Castleblayney Road upgrade which will delay progress
- Adjournment has been sought by protestors in Ardee Bypass High Court case to end of April
- A suggestion was made to include promotion of bus use under Active Travel measures and provide solar lighting inbuilt into the shelter roof. Members were advised lighting and structure of bus shelters were procured by the NTA, while Louth County Council assists with civil works
- An update on N52 works was requested
- A fit out of the recently purchased Bank of Ireland in Dunleer to accommodate library services is expected in coming months
- A breakdown of Blue Flag funding allocation was requested

## **Minute No. 27/23**

### **Congratulations**

Members offered Congratulations to the Cathaoirleach on a significant birthday.

**Minute No. 28/23**

**Condolences**

Condolences were extended to Declan McMahon Executive Engineer and family on the recent death of his father.

**Minute No. 29/23**

**Discretionary Budget Distribution**

In accordance with Standing Order no. 50, all members present agreed to meet in committee to discuss allocation of Ardee Municipal District Discretionary Funds, and media present left the meeting.

Following this discussion as there was no further business the meeting concluded.

**The Minutes were confirmed at a meeting of the Municipal District held on:**

**Date:** 6 April 2023  
**Cathaoirleach:** D. Minne  
**Meeting Administrator:** Alice Quamey